

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 190715

FOR ASST. SEC. TODMAN

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTEVIDEO 3077 SENT ACTION USINFO INFO
SECSTATE 10 AUG 77

QUOTE UNCLAS MONTEVIDEO 3077

E.O. 11652: NA

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT OF
URUGUAY

AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE A. PEZZULLO WEDNESDAY PRESENTED HIS
CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF URUGUAY, DR. APARICIO MENDEZ,
IN A COLORFUL CEREMONY AT THE PALACIO ESTEVEZ GOVERNMENT
HOUSE IN MONTEVIDEO.

AFTER PASSING THROUGH AN HONOR GUARD, THE AMBASSADOR
PLACED A FLORAL WREATH IN HONOR OF JOSE ARTIGAS AT THE
MONUMENT IN THE PLAZA INDEPENDENCE. THE AMBASSADOR AND
OTHER EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM WERE THEN
ESCORTED BY AMBASSADOR CARLOS MARIA ROMERO, DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF PROTOCOL, AND OTHER URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES,
THROUGHT THE RECENTLY INAUGURATED MAUSOLEUM LOCATED BELOW THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 190715

ARTIGAS MONUMENT WHERE THE REMAINS OF URUGUAY'S FOUNDING
FATHER NOW REST.

AMBASSADOR PEZZULLO LATER SPOKE TO THE PRESS, AS FOLLOWS,:

AMB. I HAVE JUST PRESENTED MY CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT
OF YOUR COUNTRY, AND AFTERWARDS PLACED A FLORAL

WREATH IN HONOR OF YOUR GREAT LIBERATOR ARTIGAS, WHO LIKE OUR WASHINGTON, IS A GREAT HERO IN HISTORY. AS YOU KNOW BETTER THAN I, HISTORICALLY OUR TRADITIONS ARE VERY SIMILAR, WE ARE TWO COUNTRIES FOUNDED BY IMMIGRANTS, PEOPLE WHO CAME FROM EUROPE, YOURS TO THE SOUTH, OURS A LITTLE MORE TO THE NORTH. THEY INCLUDED PEOPLE LIKE ARTIGAS, WASHINGTON AND OTHER LEADERS WHO CREATED TWO COUNTRIES OF GREAT INTERNATIONAL POWER, AND FOR THAT REASON I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO YOUR COUNTRY. I HOPE THAT THIS WILL BE A PERIOD OF IMPROVEMENT IN OUR RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CLOSE FOR MANY YEARS.

Q. WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO TO STRENGTHEN THOSE RELATIONS?

AMB. TO WORK HARD WITH MY COLLEAGUES AND WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT AND TO KNOW YOUR COUNTRY; I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT URUGUAY YET, REALLY ONLY MY HOME AND MY OFFICE. I HAVE TO TRAVEL A BIT, GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE, TO KNOW THE INTERIOR AND LEARN.

Q. WILL THE COORDINATOR FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PATRICIA DERIAN COME TO URUGUAY?

AMB. NOT ON THIS TRIP BECAUSE SHE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME, BUT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SHE MAY COME ON ANOTHER OCCASION.

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PAGE 03 STATE 190715

Q. WILL TERENCE TODMAN HAVE ONLY OFFICIAL MEETINGS IN URUGUAY? IN OTHER WORDS, ONLY WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS?

AMB. HIS ITINERARY (IN URUGUAY) HAS NOT BEEN FINALIZED.

Q. DID YOU BRING ANY SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT TO OUR GOVERNMENT?

AMB. NOTHING SPECIAL; ONLY AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR CLOSE RELATIONS AND MAINTAIN A VERY OPEN AND VERY FRIENDLY DIALOGUE, IN ORDER TO SEE HOW WE CAN HAVE A COMMON POINT OF VIEW, AT LEAST IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO DISCUSS ISSUES CANDIDLY.

Q. WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH PRESIDENT APARICIO MENDEZ?

AMB. ABOUT WHAT I'VE JUST SAID; ABOUT OUR RELATIONS. I ALSO BROUGHT GREETINGS FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND OTHER OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON.

Q. DID YOU TALK ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE?

AMB. ONLY IN THE SENSE THAT IT IS ONE OF THE IMPORTANT
ISSUES FOR OUR GOVERNMENT, FOR OUR PRESIDENT, AND THAT WE
MUST CONTINUE OUR DIALOGUE ON THIS ISSUE.

END OF TEXT

CONCERNING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT
THAT NATIONAL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN NOVEMBER 1981, AND
THAT POLITICAL ACTIVITY WILL BE SOMETIME IN 1980, THE
FOLLOWING GUIDANCE, WHICH HAS THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL,
MAY BE USED IN RESPONDING TO ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS
SUBJECT:

1) WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF URUGUAY HAS
GIVEN PUBLIC CONFIRMATION TO A POLICY ANNOUNCED LAST YEAR
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PAGE 04 STATE 190715

TO HOLD NATIONAL ELECTIONS IN 1981.

2) WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WILL LEAD TO THE
CREATION OF AN ATMOSPHERE WITHIN WHICH OTHER PROBLEMS,
PARTICULARLY THOSE RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, CAN BE
APPROACHED IN A POSITIVE MANNER.

3) ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS LEADING TO ELECTIONS IS ONLY IN
ITS INCIPIENT STAGE, WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN
URUGUAY RETURNS TO ITS ILLUSTRIOUS AND INTERNATIONALLY
RESPECTED TRADITION OF POLITICAL AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM.
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